

Amendment

Applicant: James O. Beehler

Serial No.: 10/701,787

Filed: November 4, 2003

Docket No.: 200309168-1

Title: PLATEN HAVING CHANNELS AND METHOD FOR THE SAME**REMARKS**

This Amendment modifies the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed herewith.

With this Amendment, claims 31-33 have been added, and claims 1, 2, 4, 8-10, 18, 19, 21, 25, and 27-30 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention.

Claims 1-4, 7-21, and 24-33, therefore, remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Election/Restriction

Applicant notes that in the Response to the Election/Restriction requirement of August 2, 2005, Applicant considered claims 1-6, 9, 11, 12, 18-23, and 25-29; as well as claims 7, 8, 10, 13, 15, and 24 to be readable on the elected species. The withdrawn claims, therefore, should be claims 14, 16, and 17. As such, claim 15 should be considered and should not be withdrawn as claim 15 is readable on the elected species.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 7, [8], 9-13, 18-21, and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato JP 08156351 in view of Ishii US Publication No. 2003/0085980.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that "the channel has a first end and a second end opposite the first end, wherein the air passage extends from the first end of the channel, and wherein the second end of the channel has a smaller cross-sectional area than the first end of the channel."

With this Amendment, independent claim 18 has been amended to clarify that "the channel has a first end and a second end opposite the first end, wherein the air passage extends from the first end of the channel, and wherein the second end of the channel has a smaller cross-sectional area than the first end of the channel."

With this Amendment, independent claim 25 has been amended to clarify that the method includes "establishing negative pressure applied to the media sheet through an air passage extending from a channel defined in the contact surface, including controlling the negative pressure applied to the media sheet to suction the media sheet to the contact surface

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of the platen by providing the channel with a varying cross-sectional area comprising varying a depth of the channel along at least a portion of a length of the channel" wherein "the channel has a first end and a second end opposite the first end, wherein the air passage extends from the first end of the channel, and wherein the second end of the channel has a smaller cross-sectional area than the first end of the channel."

With this Amendment, independent claim 29 has been amended to clarify that the platen includes "channel means defined in the contact surface for controlling the negative pressure delivered to the contact surface from the negative pressure means over a length of the channel means" with "the channel means having a varying cross-sectional area with the negative pressure delivered to a first end portion of the channel means and a second end portion of the channel means having a smaller cross-sectional area than the first end portion."

With respect to the Sato and Ishii references, Applicant submits that these references, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest a platen for supporting a media sheet as claimed in independent claim 1, do not teach or suggest a printer device configured to support a media sheet as claimed in independent claim 18, do not teach or suggest a method for supporting media in a printer device as claimed in independent claim 25, and do not teach or suggest a platen for supporting a media sheet as claimed in independent claim 29.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 18, 25, and 29, and the dependent claims depending therefrom, are each patentably distinct from the Sato and Ishii references and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-4, 7, 9-13, 18-21, and 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1-4, 7-21, and 24-33 be allowed.

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****MAY 23 2007****CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-4, 7-21, and 24-33 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment should be directed to either Robert D. Wasson at Telephone No. (360) 212-2338, Facsimile No. (360) 212-3060 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on this 23rd day of May, 2007.

By 
Name: Scott A. Lund